2/11/69

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for the note on Herald. One of the fine young men with whom I work is in touch with him. These were the documents I recalled but could not locate. As of my last information, Herald had added nothing on those point but had on others. The latter remain to be established as fact.

Vince has sent me a copy of his 2/8 letter to you. I would prefer to forget that unpleasantness but fear I cannot. I will, to the degree possible, avoid it, and I shall not respond to him.

His second paragraph contains misstatements. If it is true that he did not influence that decision, and I do not call him a liar, what he had earlier done was sufficient to have this effect. That did not get wiped out. Hem may have asked Bud to tell me those things, but Bud did not. I think it is worth noting that if he did consult "several of the critics", unnamed (he mentioned Ray Marcus to me), he consulted those who had no knowledge, as he well knew - and as he prefers, because it is on this basis that he has operated. This is one of the paragraphs in which there is subconscious reflection of his concept of self or which I have told you. For example (my emphasis):"I specifically instructed Bud Fensterwald that he was to inform Harold that I was totally irrelevant to the decision".

What he says in his third paragraph is unknown to me. I presume it is correct. I also can find no fault, including with the statement attributed to the judge. What had happened before him is enough to warrant that feeling. However, none ofnthis would have come to pass had it not been for what went before that is so inexcuseable.

It is true that I told him I would not again discuss this with him, and that I declined his offerrto come here. First of it, it subjects my wife to what she cannot abide. From what she has come to know of Vince and this she told me in advance she would not go to dinner with us. Her anticipations were immediately confirmed as soon as he and Keten got into the house. Second of all, this routine he goes through tears me up emotionally and I cannot work well for several days. And I refuse to accept himin the role in which he has cast himself. Besides, he is utterly irrational and entirely unresponsive, and that no one can cope with. Above all else, it was not necessary, except to this self-importance with which I think he seeks to quiet his conscience for his own abdications and discouragement.

I intend nothing further with the letter I wrote him. It was for the record and I regard it as an accurate record. If he should prove any of the statements wrong, I will apologize to him and everyone else for any such error. He has not, has not undertaken to and, I am confident, cannot. You have personal knowledge of some of it and I have the documents on the rest, plus that.

The first part of the PS is entirely false. The judge had said exactly the opposite, on 1/31. I have no knowledge of what he said 2/5, but the present situation indicates it cannot be as here represented. In any event, if it had come to pass, who would have caused it but Vince and those agreeing with him?

I so deeply appreciate the justifiable condescencion of the exalted, that genuine democratic spirit evinced by the nobility, " but I offer this item as support for the idea that I was still willing to maintain an open mind and hear Harold out on that date". I am so thrilled!

Poor, sick man.

Sincerely,